John R Stockwell and the CIA (PART III) (1979) - 01 of 13

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rJ9JUOl0P5I (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rJ9JUOl0P5I)

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¤ Alternative Views

48. (C) JOHN STOCKWELL AND THE CIA (PART III)
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    John R. Stockwell introduces the documentary made about him by Academy Award-winning filmmaker Saul Landau. The movie has been shown in several film festivals around the world and on TV in many countries; but the U.S. networks, including PBS, refused to show it. Consequently, our showing provides its American premiere. Next, we look at segments of three weeks' coverage by the TV networks of the situation concerning the Russian troops in Cuba, interspersed with John's comments. Finally, John gives his evaluation of Cuba, having recently visited there three times, and his arguments against the CIA. The program was designated "tonight's highlight" by the Austin American-Statesman and evoked much discussion.

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    Recorded October, 1979

    This movie is part of the collection: Alternative Views

    Producer: Frank Morrow
    Production Company: Alternative Information Network
    Audio/Visual: sound, color
    Language: English

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john stockwell was high CIA official for 12 years he quit at that time and wrote the book in search of enemies there was also a documentary made about John and his experiences in the CIA and his life this documentary has been seen over a lot of the world in film festivals Sweden United States and in Germany but never on any of the TV networks including public television John urine no no well we'll find out why and John will be able to speak free and uninhibited Lee tonight as everybody always does on alternative views news magazine huh good evening welcome to alternative views tonight we have a very special program for you featuring john stockwell john was a former CIA officer who wrote a book exposing the CIA operations in angola called in search of enemies last year we had John on for a two-hour special portrait discussion in which we

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special portrait discussion in which we discussed how he got into the CIA what disillusioned him about CIA operations and had one of the first television discussions of the activities of the CIA the recruitment their day by day operation and the problems that they that the CIA causes for American foreign policy and the subversion of American values that are their daily practice tonight we're going to have a follow-up to this we will begin with a documentary film on the life of john stockwell that was made by sal landau and haskell wexler this excellent documentary was shown in many foreign film festivals that one a lot of prizes but needless to say it has never been shown on American television so we'll have the TV debut tonight of the documentary by john stockwell about john stockwell we will also have a special news feature in which we will show you how the network television news covered the story about the russian troops that were supposedly discovered in Cuba and the manufactured crisis and the political uproar that this cause we will have John's reaction to the network covering of this story and we'll have a count that goes behind the scenes that tells you how this story was actually manufactured we will also have a special one-hour discussion with John that will discuss his current views on the CIA particularly why he thinks the CIA should be abolished and why it is a counterproductive agency there's really subversive of our democracy and the primary American values that we believe in we'll begin John with having a discussion with you about the documentary that was made could you tell us a little bit about how this film was made and what your reaction to it is before we actually look at it yes I think it's an interesting story the way

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think it's an interesting story the way slow landau and haskell wexler put it together they came down to austin to do the filming part of it done on up on lake travis and part of it around town here i think it covers the various aspects of sort of how john stockwell got to be with my my childhood in Africa and Marine Corps experience and whatnot it's statements about the CIA are pretty good I did have one reservation about it when it was all over though that I think is I appreciate having the opportunity to say before you see the film and that's that so Landau checked me out so to speak looked me over and decided that as he put it he's a political activist that I would be more effective as he put it if I were presented as an ex-marine officer who would have been happy with the CIA if it had been efficient and that's that's not why I gave up my career and quit the CIA and committed the career suicide economic suicide that I did I think it's certainly an argument against the CI that it's incredibly inefficient and ineffective but that comes after several other issues like the morality of an organization that has committed acts of terrorism around the world killing hundreds of thousands of people and discrediting United States and making the world a much less safe place for for us to live and do business in John what about distribution and showing of the film it's been shown overseas has been shown in film festivals but the networks including PBS won't touch it what's the background on that well that's pretty much says it right there it was shown at the New York Film Festival and provoked the biggest discussion of any film that was shown there it was shown at a german film festival and likewise was not controversial they provoked a great discussion about the CIA on swedish

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discussion about the CIA on swedish national television german national television throughout Europe and various parts of the third world the US networks of course the Big East won't show any film they haven't done themselves and so they wouldn't consider it and PBS looked at it various PBS stations looked at it and none of them were willing to show it for their own reasons I don't think it's that controversial it I've gone much further in my lecturing in the comments that we make on this panel it I do not in that film call for a closure of the CIA which which in fact I do believe as a patriotic American that the CIA should be closed down well we're going to see the movie now right now let's see the movie first okay so this you should yeah I was proud I mean my dad works for the CIA yeah I don't pretend to think that we would have had a very successful marriage even if we had not been in the CIA he could go along with it so far and then personal benefits go out it was strictly a matter of principle I learned you as a CIA officer this last year oh good fine good I gotta

find out some company didn't you I've been straight all my life in terms of working my way through college and the gates Rubber Company was a conservative company a good one very conservative straight braincore and 12 years in the CIA a team man an organization man I think with my own

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organization man I think with my own individuality Oh I went up to the sawmill for one final load of lumber because he was a long and friend of his Congolese fam was with us prob were driving the so avoid was riding on the top of the truck top of the lumber and in crossing a plane we saw an equivalent of a wild turkey so he raised his 22 and shot from the kale and dropped the bird in its tracks and then he called his friend up on top of the load of lumber the first one to it gets it and that was quite a race because he met a lot to both of them Bob won by maybe a yard and so we shared the bird with the other missionaries things like that in their experience and background that they couldn't get over here and then his mother could tell you some stories about some of his adventures first time he wanted to go on a an antelope hunt well it was a place where they drove quite away

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